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Otepka Denies All Charges, Asks That They Be Dropped

Washington, Oct. 15 (AP)—Otto F. Otepka, suspended State Department security officer, has told the department that charges against him are without foundation and asked that they be dismissed.

This was the concluding sentence of a twelve-page letter in which Otepka replied to a variety of charges, including the accusations that he mutilated government documents by snipping off classified labels without proper procedure and gave classified documents to the Senate Internal Security subcommittee.

Filed Reply Monday

Otepka filed his reply to the charges yesterday. His letter was addressed to John Ordway, chief of the department's personnel operation division. It has not been released by the State Department but a copy of it was obtained by a reporter.

Otepka, 48, former chief evaluator of security risks for the State Department, was suspended September 23 on charges of conduct

"unbecoming to an officer of the Department of State."

Besides asking that the charges be dismissed, Otepka raised counteraccusations. He said he has "reason to believe" that somebody eavesdropped on conversations in his office, using "secretly employed listening devices"; that his office telephone was tapped and that his desk and safe were "surreptitiously opened and searched."

Points To Ratings

At the outset of his letter, Otepka recalled that he became a security officer at the State Department in 1953 and said that his efficiency ratings have always been "highly favorable."

In 1958, he said, he received the department's meritorious service award signed by John Foster Dulles, the late Secretary of State.

Officials said Ordway will review Otepka's reply and answer in due course. If he decides against Otepka's contentions, Otepka can ask for a hearing before a State Department examiner. Appeals also are possible to the Civil Service Commission and finally to the courts.

As to the specific charge that he gave copies of memoranda drafted in the Office of Security to the counsel of the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, Otepka replied that the memoranda contained no confidential information and referred to matters of public record.

Moreover, he asserted, it was necessary for him to submit these documents to counter charges made before the committee by John F. Reilly, Deputy

Assistant Secretary of State for security, who "seriously disparaged my performance of duty and impugned my integrity."

Otepka said further that the Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, permitted Senator Dodd (D., Conn.), chairman of the subcommittee, to examine certain documents in one of the security cases.